MARVEL

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GUGGENHEIM
LÓPEZ
MENON

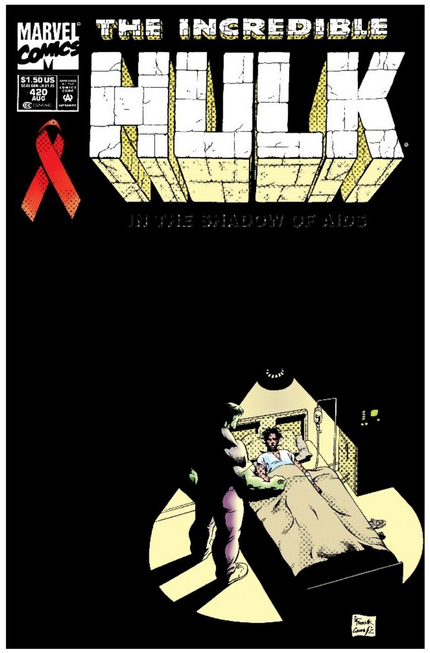
BRING ON THE BAD GUYS

Mephisto

RATED **T+**

PETER DAVID

1956-2025



"The only meaningful power is the power we have to help each other. And no power is greater than love, Rick. It's very cornball. It's also true."

— **Peter David** in *Incredible Hulk #467*

Marvel is saddened by the passing of Peter David, an incredible writer whose talents affected every part of the comics world and beyond.

David's twelve-year run on *Incredible Hulk* was remarkable not only for its length, but also for the depth of ideas, innovations and clever writing. His influence on the character has extended through the years and from page to screen.

He created Spider-Man 2099, one of the first multiversal Spider-Men, and wrote three smart, charming and character-focused *X-Factor* runs. He brought his talents to the rest of the comics industry, including DC's *Young Justice*, *Aquaman* and *Supergirl*. He has written many shelves' full of novels, from his own *Sir Apropos of Nothing* to many ground-breaking Star Trek novels. His column for the *Comics Buyer's Guide*, "But I Digress," gave insights into the comic book industry for more than a decade.

On television, he was the co-creator of *Space Cases* and wrote episodes of *Babylon 5*. He also wrote the films *Oblivion* (1994) and two entries in the *Trancers* series. He has won numerous awards, including an Eisner, an Inkpot, a *Wizard* Fan Award and a GLAAD Media Award.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen and his children Shana, Gwen, Ariel and Caroline.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN O'SHEA DAVID

"Peter's Hulk was a green beacon at the point when I was breaking into comics. It seemed to be the one book at Marvel without an 'X' on it that really got fans excited. When I came aboard, I couldn't believe how welcoming and generous Peter was to a young artist with no real track record, and the humanity in his characters became a template for the kind of books I would always want to make.

"Even today, thirty years later, the majority of fans I meet open with, 'I loved that Peter David run on Hulk.' Special books. Special writer."

— Gary Frank

"Peter was always thinking around corners. Whenever he got a new assignment, his approach would be, 'Okay, what does everyone expect from this series? Great, let's do something else.' And he'd show you a different angle, a different approach, that would suddenly illuminate the characters in a whole new way. He wasn't an 'Everything you know is wrong' guy, but he was definitely an 'Okay, what else?' guy. And it worked—for him, for the books, for his legion of readers. He'd give you something no one else could."

— Kurt Busiek

ON THE BAD GUYS

Mephisto

The SOUL FORGE is an ancient artifact that can give whoever gains access to it control over all souls on Earth, but can only be utilized after a sacred incantation is delivered along with the souls of descendants from an ancient cult known as the LORDS OF DARKNESS.

Whoever controls the Soul Forge puts the fate of the souls of the entire planet in peril. As MEPHISTO and his reluctant disciple SISTER SORROW aim to power the Forge, villains from throughout history are called upon to deliver the souls required...

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HELL...

...THE FINAL HOME OF THE *DAMNED.*

OF THOSE WHOSE *SINS* WERE SO GREAT AS TO WARRANT AN *ETERNITY* OF *PUNISHMENT.*

AMONG THOSE SINS IS THAT OF *PRIDE.*

THERE IS A SPECIAL PLACE IN *HELL* FOR THOSE WHOSE *PRIDE* LED THEM TO BELIEVE THEY COULD *OUTWIT* THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

THAT THEY COULD *BARGAIN* WITH *MEPHISTO* AND COME OUT WITH THE BETTER END OF THE DEAL.

I AM GUILTY OF SUCH A *SIN.* AND YET...

...IT IS MY *FATHER* WHO BURNS IN INFINITE *TORMENT.*

FOR COUNTLESS YEARS, I HAVE TRIED TO *FREE* HIM *WITHOUT SUCCESS.*

BUT HELL IS MEPHISTO'S *PRISON.*

AND THERE IS NO *ESCAPE.*

SO ALL THAT IS LEFT TO ME IS...*REVENGE.*

I HAVE BIDED MY TIME, WAITED FOR THE PERFECT *MOMENT* TO HAVE MY *VENGEANCE* AGAINST MEPHISTO BY *DENYING* HIM THAT WHICH HE *COVETS.*

PATIENCE, FATHER.

A SMALL QUANTUM OF *RETRIBUTION* IS FINALLY AT HAND.

I'VE MADE ANOTHER *BARGAIN...*

"...WITH A *DIFFERENT* KIND OF *DEVIL.*

"KNOWN AS *DOCTOR DOOM.*"

MEPHISTO.

IT IS THE KING OF LIES YOU SERVE, ISN'T IT?

I DON'T "SERVE" MEPHISTO. WE HAVE...AN *ARRANGEMENT.*

IT "SERVES" *ME.*

NO.

YOU ATTEMPT TO ***DECEIVE*** DOOM.

IN TRUTH, YOU ***CHAFE*** AGAINST THIS "ARRANGEMENT."

YOUR HEART HARBORS NOTHING BUT ***VENOM*** FOR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

PERHAPS...

...WE CAN COME TO AN ***ACCORD.***

I'M... LISTENING.

MEPHISTO SEEKS TO REPOWER THE ***SOUL FORGE,*** DOES HE NOT?

...

YES.

BUT HE LACKS THE ***MEANS*** TO DO SO AT THE MOMENT.

HOWEVER, ONCE HE ***DOES,*** THE FORGE WILL GIVE HIM DOMINION OVER ALL THE ***SOULS*** IN HELL AND ON EARTH.

DOOM CANNOT ABIDE SUCH *POWER* IN THE HANDS OF *MEPHISTO.*

"WE STRUCK OUR *DEAL*...

"...AND I *DEPARTED.*

"DOOM GAVE ME ACCESS TO HIS *TECHNOLOGY*, A *PLATFORM* THAT ALLOWED ME...

"...TO MOVE THROUGH *TIME.*"

AND NOW ALL I NEED DO IS WAIT...

SISTER SORROW...

...TO HEAR MY MASTER'S VOICE.

...ATTEND TO ME.

"EXCELLENT..."

...MOST EXCELLENT. YOU HAVE DONE *WELL.*

HOW MUCH DIFFICULTY DID YOU HAVE *ATTAINING* THEM?

THERE WERE SOME... CHALLENGES.*

BUT I OVERCAME THEM IN TIME.

*SEE ***BRING ON THE BAD GUYS: LOKI #1*** FOR A SENSE OF ONE OF THOSE CHALLENGES. --BACK-ISSUE BASSO

IN ANY CASE, YOU NOW HAVE ALL ***FIVE DAGGERS...***

...EACH REPLENISHED WITH THE ***SOULS*** OF THOSE ***DESCENDED*** FROM THE LORDS OF DARKNESS.

WHY HAVEN'T YOU ***USED*** THEM TO ***REPOWER*** THE SOUL FORGE?

BECAUSE DOING SO REQUIRES ***ONE FINAL STEP:*** A ***RITUAL*** PERFORMED UPON THE ***ALTAR*** OF THE ORIGINAL ***LORDS OF DARKNESS.***

WON'T YOU ***ACCOMPANY*** ME?

AND HERE WE ARE: THE FORMER SANCTUM OF THE LORDS OF DARKNESS.

I'VE MADE SURE IT HASN'T COME TO ANY *MISCHIEF* OVER THE CENTURIES.

THE *MYSTIC POWERS* ARE STILL *STRONG* IN THIS PLACE.

CAN YOU *FEEL* IT?

I *CAN.*

THEY'RE *RADIATING* OFF THE SOUL FORGE.

IT'S AS THOUGH IT *WANTS* TO BE EMPOWERED.

TO *COMPLETE* THAT WHICH WAS *STARTED* CENTURIES AGO.

FORTIS *FORGE*, BIBE NUNC QUINQUE...

IT WAS *IMPORTANT* TO DOOM TO LET MEPHISTO COMMENCE THE RITUAL.

DOING SO WAS PART OF THE *BARGAIN* WE STRUCK.

BUT I'M DONE *HONORING BARGAINS* MADE WITH *DEVILS.*

OH, SORANA...

...I'M *DISAPPOINTED* IN YOU.

CHAK

HGH--!

NOT THAT YOU WOULD *BETRAY* ME, OF COURSE.

NO, I *ASSUMED* AS MUCH WHEN I LET YOUR FATHER *PERISH.*

IT WAS ALWAYS JUST A MATTER OF *TIME* BEFORE YOU MADE A SLOPPY GRAB AT *VENGEANCE.*

BUT THIS? NOW?

WHY WOULD YOU MAKE YOUR STAND OVER SOMETHING AS INSIGNIFICANT AS THE SOULS OF MORTALS?

TO DEPRIVE YOU OF THAT WHICH YOU DESIRE.

HMM. I MUST SAY.

AS VENDETTAS GO...

...KIND OF LAME.

NOW... WHERE WAS I?

OH YES: FORTIS FORGE, BIBE NUNC QUINQUE ISTARUM ANIMARUM, RESONAT ESSENTIARUM SUPERIORUM MAGISTRORUM TUORUM...

ANOTHER DESPERATE ATTACK? REALLY?

...CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?

AAAAGHH--

HNNN...

ACCENDE, INNOVANDUM ET FAC POTESTATEM OMNIUM ANIMARUM IN TERRA ET IN INFERNO.

AND...

...IT BEGINS.

CAN YOU FEEL IT?

"ALL OVER THE WORLD...

"...EVERY SOUL ON EARTH...

"...BEGINS TO BEND THEIR WILL..."

2025

INFOVIDEO STORY OF THE DAY.

FEEL.

160 SOUTH

FW

...TO ME.

I DON'T MIND SAYING...

IT FEELS GOOD.

NO...

THE SOULS OF HELL AND EARTH REMAIN ONLY IN YOUR **CONTROL** AS LONG AS THE **FORGE** DOES.

THAT'S... NOT UNTRUE.

YOUR **POINT?**

I'M GOING TO **DESTROY** THE FORGE.

AHAHAHA

HA. AS THE HUMAN EXPRESSION GOES: "YOU AND WHAT *ARMY?*"

THE "ARMY" THAT I HAVE ASSEMBLED.

DOOM...

...BRING ON THE BAD GUYS!

THE "BAD GUYS."

SUCH A *JUVENILE* TERM FOR THE *ARMY* I HAVE ASSEMBLED FROM ACROSS ALL OF *TIME*.

EACH *CONNECTED* TO THE DAGGERS MY FORMER MASTER COVETED SO DEARLY.

EACH ONE REFUSING TO BE *BEHOLDEN* TO MEPHISTO.

DOCTOR DOOM.

SO POWERFUL, HE COMMANDS A *NATION.*

THE DREAD *DORMAMMU.*

EVEN *MORE* POWERFUL THAN DOOM WITH DOMINION OVER AN ENTIRE *DIMENSION.*

LOKI.

A LITERAL *GOD.*

THE RED SKULL.

THE HUMAN EMBODIMENT OF EVIL.

THE GREEN GOBLIN.

THE BRILLIANT NORMAN OSBORN'S TWISTED, DEADLY ALTER EGO.

AND THE *ABOMINATION.*

AS *STRONG* AS THE HULK BUT POSSESSING EMIL BLONSKY'S DEVIOUS MIND.

WELL...

THIS IS RATHER *DISAPPOINTING*, I MUST SAY.

BUT YOU'RE *TOO LATE.*

THE FORGE IS *POWERED.* EVERY SOUL IN HELL AND ON EARTH IS FALLING TO *MY WILL.*

AND IT GIVES ME *POWER.*

HERE...

...HAVE SOME.

FWOOSH

HAH! NOW WE'RE *COOKING!*

I HAVE HIM!

AND I WILL *BREAK* THE DEMON'S NECK.

NO...

...ALLOW ME. AS ONE "DEMON" TO ANOTHER...

I THINK NOT.

YOU ALL *FORGET*...THAT *SOME* OF THE SOULS I NOW CONTROL...

...ARE IN THIS VERY *CHAMBER.*

BAH...

GNF--!

ZZZZZMMM

YOU TAX DOOM'S *PATIENCE* WITH THIS *TRICKERY.*

FEH. HUMANS...

I AM A *GOD,* FOUL CREATURE.

NO...

...YOU ARE *PATHETIC.*

LOOKING AROUND, I SEE THAT IN THE CHAOS...

...THE *RED SKULL* HAS *FLED.*

ALONG WITH THE *FORGE.*

JUST AS I *ANTICIPATED.*

(THOUGH I HAD EXPECTED TO BE BETRAYED BY **LOKI.**)

THIS WAS ***NOT*** OUR ARRANGEMENT, *HERR SKULL.*

DUMME FRAU. IT WAS ALWAYS ***MY*** ARRANGEMENT.

EVER SINCE YOU TOLD ME OF THE FORGE, I ***KNEW*** I HAD TO WIN IT FOR THE *FÜHRER.*

SURRENDER THE FORGE.

OR I SHALL ***DESTROY*** IT.

YOU PROCEED UNDER A DELUSION OF GRANDEUR, *FRAULINE...*

"...EVIDENTLY *PLEASED* WITH YOURSELF FOR HAVING BROUGHT TOGETHER SUCH A *FORMIDABLE* GROUP."

BUT I AM FUELED BY MOMENTOUS *PURPOSE*. I AM THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE *GREATEST NATION* HISTORY HAS EVER *KNOWN*.

I LISTEN FOR AS MUCH AS I CAN *STOMACH*...

...AND DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE *DONE*.

NEIN!

VHOOM

STUPID COW! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE *DONE*?

YES...

"...I'VE *ENDED* THE *DANGER* OF THE FORGE."

HOLD!

THE MATTER IS *SETTLED.*

THE FORGE IS *NO MORE.*

THE *FRAU* SPEAKS THE *TRUTH.*

SHE *INCINERATED* THE FORGE RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS.

I HAVE ACHIEVED MY *OBJECTIVE.*

FURTHER FIGHTING IS *POINTLESS.*

THAT'S ONLY TRUE IF WE DON'T DECIDE TO "TEAM UP" (AS THEY SAY) AND KILL *YOU.*

YOU ARE WELCOME TO *TRY.*

BUT IT WILL *NOT* GO WELL FOR YOU.

DOOM CONJURES...

...AND SENDS THE *VILLAINS* BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE *TIMES.*

WELL, THAT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED...

NOW... WHERE DID WE *LEAVE OFF?*

OH, YES...

...NOW I *REMEMBER.*

YOU WERE AT DOOM'S *MERCY.*

WE MADE A *BARGAIN:* DOOM WOULD SPARE YOUR LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR HELP TO ACQUIRE THE FORGE.

AND YOU *RENEGED.*

FOOLISH.

AND YET... YOU DID SO TO FRUSTRATE *MEPHISTO'S PLANS.*

AND THIS *AMUSES* DOOM.

AS DOES THE THOUGHT THAT THERE IS A *NEW PIECE* ON THE BOARD WHO CAN KEEP MEPHISTO IN CHECK.

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?

APPARENTLY, DOOM HAS DISCERNED WHAT I'VE *DONE* AND FINDS IT... *INTRIGUING.*

WHAT. HAVE. YOU. *DONE?*

I DECEIVED THE *PRINCE OF LIES* HIMSELF.

WHAT WAS *PERCEIVED* AS DESTROYING THE FORGE WAS MERELY A *TRANSPORTATION SPELL.*

AND NOW I *WIELD* IT.

WITH *CONTROL* OVER EVERY SOUL ON *EARTH.*

YOU'RE WELCOME TO *TRY* TO *TAKE* IT FROM ME.

BUT THERE ARE OVER *EIGHT BILLION* SOULS ON EARTH.

AND THEY ARE ALL NOW UNDER MY *COMMAND.*

FORTUNATELY FOR YOU--AND, I SUPPOSE, THE *WORLD*--I HAVE NO INTEREST IN POWER, NO APPETITE FOR THE CONTROL OF OTHERS.

THEN WHAT *IS* IT YOU *WANT?*

TO BE FINALLY *FREE* OF YOU. AND *LEFT ALONE.*

OR...?

OR I WILL USE THE *POWER* UNDER MY CONTROL TO QUENCH THE VERY FIRES OF *HELL* ITSELF AND ALL YOU WILL RULE OVER IS *ASHES.*

...

VERY WELL. YOUR DEBT TO ME...

...IS ERASED.

WHEN I TOLD MEPHISTO THAT WHAT I WANTED WAS TO BE *FREE* OF HIM, I SPOKE THE *TRUTH.*

TO A *POINT.*

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN CONTROLLING EVERY SOUL ON *EARTH.*

BUT THERE IS *ONE* SOUL IN *HELL...*

...THAT I AM *VERY* INTERESTED IN.

END.

FOR MORE OF MEPHISTO'S SCHEMES (AND MORE BAD GUYS!), CHECK OUT

HELLVERINE #10

ON SALE 9/10/25!

DOOM #1

GREEN GOBLIN #1

ABOMINATION #1

LOKI #1

RED SKULL #1

DORMAMMU #1

MEPHISTO #1

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